NOTICE OF MOTION

NM 2017, January 23
Regular Meeting of Council

RE: RENAMING THE LANGEVIN BRIDGE AS THE RECONCILIATION BRIDGE

MAYOR Nenshi, COUNCILLOR Sutherland, COUNCILLOR Magliocca, COUNCILLOR Chu. COUNCILLOR Jones, COUNCILLOR Pootmans, COUNCILLOR Farrell, COUNCILLOR Woolley, COUNCILLOR Carra, COUNCILLOR Chabot, COUNCILLOR Pincott, COUNCILLOR Keating, COUNCILLOR Colley-Urquhart, COUNCILLOR Demong

WHEREAS we live in a time of reconciliation, where we are establishing new relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadians based on mutual recognition of the past, mutual respect and a sincere desire to forge a better future together through a process of truth and healing;

AND WHEREAS Treaty 7 was signed 140 years ago, outlining how we all share this land;

AND WHEREAS Calgary lies on ancient land, in this place called Moh’kin sstis, the traditional land of the Treaty 7 people, and of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 and the home to Urban Indigenous peoples;

AND WHEREAS it was the policy of the Government of Canada to remove several generations of Indigenous children (over 150,000 in number) from their families and communities and for those children to be placed in the Indian residential school system, a system that inflicted abuse on its students and left a legacy of intergenerational harm which, as 2015 report from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (“TRC”) states, amounted to “cultural genocide”;

AND WHEREAS Prime Minister Stephen Harper, after establishing the TRC, apologized in the House of Commons on June 11, 2008 for the establishment and administration of the Indian residential school system by the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the final report of the TRC contains 94 calls to action that acknowledge the injustices and harms experienced by Indigenous people and lays out a path forward;

AND WHEREAS Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Advisory Committee ("CAUAC") in White Goose Flying, A Report to Calgary City Council on the Indian Residential School Truth and Reconciliation ("White Goose Flying Report") which included a recommendation to address the name of the Langevin Bridge;

AND WHEREAS as Canadians we must acknowledge and understand our past, both the good and bad, and that Hector Langevin, a Father of Confederation and Cabinet Minister, after whom the Langevin Bridge was named after (and whose Ministry funded the first bridge’s construction), played a foundational role in the establishment of the Indian residential school system;
AND WHEREAS both CAUAC and a representative group of Treaty 7 Knowledge Keepers have endorsed the direction in this Notice of Motion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council hereby renames the Langevin Bridge as the “Reconciliation Bridge” as a sincere act of reconciliation on behalf of the citizens of Calgary;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council waive the usual process under the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy, and that the passage of this Notice of Motion be taken as final approval of the name change;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Administration consult with the Mayor’s Office, interested Members of Council, Treaty 7 Knowledge Keepers, CAUAC and the Calgary Heritage Authority in developing wording and procuring a plaque that both explains the history of all bridge structures at the location, as well as the story of Hector Langevin and the story of the Indian residential school system and its impact on Canada’s Indigenous community, to facilitate community dialogue;

AND FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes Administration to work with the Mayor’s Office, interested Members of Council, Treaty 7 Knowledge Keepers and CAUAC in organizing a ceremony in 2017 to rededicate the Langevin Bridge as the “Reconciliation Bridge” and to foster healing and reconciliation within the community.